

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 TRSE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SY-04 CPR-02 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 000139

R 272059Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 710

INFO CINCSO

GOV PANCANAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2942

EO 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJ: CANAL ZONE CUSTOMS ORDERED TO LEAVE TOCUMEN

1. THE CANAL ZONE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION INSPECTOR ON DUTY AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT WAS SUMMONED TO THE VIP LOUNGE AT 11:00 PM MAY 21 BY FOREIGN MINISTER TACK AND ORDERED TO LEAVE THE AIRPORT. WHEN THE INSPECTOR ASKED WHY, TACK TOLD HIM TO CHECK WITH THE U S EMBASSY. CANAL ZONE OFFICIALS SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS ORDERS NOT TO ALLOW CZ INSPECTORS TO ENTER THE CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION AREA OF THE AIRPORT. TODAY WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT PANAMANIAN IMMIGRANT AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE PERMITTING PASSENGERS DESTINED FOR THE CANAL ZONE TO ENTER PANAMA USING THEIR CZ DOCUMENTATION. UNDER THE 1949 AVIATION AGREEMENT PANAMA IS REQUIRED TO PERMIT CZ INSPECTORS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AT THE AIRPORT.

2. TACK HAD ARRIVED AT TOCUMEN FROM NEW YORK ON PA 223 A FEW MINUTES BEFORE HE SUMMONED THE CZ INSPECTOR. HE REPORTEDLY HAS SAID THAT HIS BAGGAGE WAS SEARCHED IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE. WE ASSUME HE WAS REFERRING TO THE ANTI-HIJACKING SECURITY MEASURES IN FORCE AT U S AIRPORTS.

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3) WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THROUGH A FRIEND OF TACK'S WHO WAS ON THE SAME FLIGHT THAT IT WAS, INDEED, THE SECURITY CHECK IN NEW YORK THAT AROUSED THE MINISTER'S IRE. APPARENTLY HIS BRIEFCASE WAS OPENED AND HIS TAPE RECORDER WAS INSPECTED. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE SECURITY GUARD WENT OVER TACK'S PERSON WITH THE USUAL SENSING DEVICE. THE MINISTER FOUND THE WHOLE PROCEDURE DEMEANING AND FELT IT DISPLAYED A LACK OF PROPER RESPECT FOR A PERSON OF HIS STANDING.

4) TACK WAS NOT IN THE MINISTRY THIS MORNING. I HAVE LEFT A MESSAGE ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WILL EXPLAIN TO HIM THE WORKINGS OF OUR AIRPORT SECURITY SYSTEM AND THAT NO ONE IS IMMUNE FROM PRECISELY THE KIND OF CHECK HE UNDERWENT. I WILL ALSO NOTE THAT IF WE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF HIS TIME OF DEPARTURE AND FLIGHT NUMBER, WE COULD HAVE TAKEN STEPS THAT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED ANY INCONVENIENCE TO HIM.  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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